[28th September 1956

question, will the Government take into consideration the opinion of the Board of Directors as well as public opinion in this matter and utilise the amount for the benefit of those areas?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Government will certainly assess public opinion on the part of those concerned with it and then take a decision.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : மலபாரில் அரிசியை அதிக விலைக்கு விற்றதால் அங்கு அதிகப்படியான பணம் கிடைத்திருக்கிறது. அங்கு இப்பொழுது அரிசி விலை அதிகமாக விற்கப்படுவதால் அந்தப் பணத்தை வைத்துக்கொண்டு அரிசியை குறைந்த விலைக்கு விற்பதற்கு அரசாங்கம் ஏற்பாடு செய்வார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : இந்தப் பணம் இல்லாமலேயே இப்பொழுது அங்கு குறைந்த விலைக்குத்தான் விற்கப்படுகிறது. ஆனால் இந்தப் பணத்தைக்கொண்டு ஜனங்களுக்கு பொதுவான வசதி ஏற்படக்கூடிய திட்டங்களை நிறைவேற்றிக் கொடுப்பதாக சர்க்காருடைய உத்தேசம்.

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Sir, in this case, the best method of assessing public opinion is to consult the general body of the present society. Will the Government ask the Collector to ask the society to convene a general body meeting and assess their opinion.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I do not entirely agree with the hon. Member that public opinion could be constituted only within the four circles of the general body of the society. It was not merely the members of the general body that purchased the rice at a higher price but also the members of the general public.

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : The Hon. Minister has stated that the Government have instructed the Collector of Malabar not to allow the withdrawal of the amount for the purposes stated here. May I know whether the Government will expedite reconsideration of the matter and see that the amount is spent on Local Development Works distributed in all the villages, inasmuch as the people from every village have contributed to the excess payment? May I also know whether the Government would make their fifty per cent contribution because in Local Development works if the public make 50 per cent contribution, the other 50 per cent will be made by the Government and whether such a contribution will be made by the Government before 1st November 1956?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Collector's proposals have been received and the Board of Revenue is examining them. It is not possible to distribute the amount to every village but there are proposals that certain other schools should also have the benefit. There are proposals to carry out certain Local Development works and when such works are undertaken, the Government will make their fifty per cent contribution. I do hope that we shall be able to take a decision as expeditiously as possible, at any rate, before 1st November 1956.

28th September 1956]

Distribution of cement to dealers

* 272-D Q.—SRI S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state— 9-50 a.m.

(a) the present system of distributing cement to dealers for sale to the public in the State;

(b) whether it is a fact that Managers of Cement Factories are appointed as Honorary Controllers, and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the authority that authorizes dealers to hold stocks of cement for sale to the public;

(d) the authority that fixes the quota for the dealers; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to bring cement under control?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (a) Until 30th June 1956 the cement factories in the State used to distribute cement to authorised dealers for sale to the general public under instructions from the Honorary Cement Controllers. But with effect from 1st July 1956 the State Trading Corporation of India (Private), Ltd., set up by the Government of India under the Central Cement Control Orders, 1956 controls distribution and sale of cement.

(b) No, Sir. The Regional Honorary Cement Advisers to the Government of India who are also the Honorary Cement Controllers to the State Government are the local managers of the Cement Marketing Company of India, Ltd.

(c) & (d) The State Trading Corporation of India (Private), Ltd., attends to these two functions with effect from 1st July 1956.

(e) Cement is already under control.

SRI M. PALANIYANDI : சாதாரணமாக சிமெண்ட் கிடைப்பதில் பல தொந்தரவுகள் இருக்கின்றன. மத்திய அரசாங்கத்தின் மூலமாகக் கொடுப்பதாக இருந்தாலும் கிராமங்களில் அதே ஏஜெண்டுகள் மூலமாகக் கொடுக்கப்படுவதால்—அதற்கு என்று தனி ஸ்தாபனம் இருந்தாலும்—தாசில்தார் மூலமாகவும் சிமெண்ட் மார்க்கெட்டிங் போர்டு மூலமாகவும் கொடுப்பதால் பல தொந்தரவுகள் ஏற்படுகின்றன. அதனால் நமது சர்க்கார் சிமெண்ட் எங்கு விநியோகிக்கப்படுகிறது என்பதைப்பற்றியும் எங்கு ஏஜெண்டுகள் இருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதைப்பற்றியும் விளம்பரப்படுத்தினால் ஜனங்கள் அதைத் தெரிந்து கொண்டு அதை வாங்குவதற்கு தொந்தரவுகளுக்குள்ளாகாமல் இருப்பார்கள் அல்லவா ? இதற்கு இந்த அரசாங்கம் வழிவகை செய்வார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : இங்கு உற்பத்தியாகும் சிமெண்டை கண்ட்ரோலில் எடுத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களே விநியோகம் செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அதனால் இந்த அரசாங்கத்திற்கே 15 ஆயிரம் டன் குறைவாகக் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். அதனால்தான் இந்தக் கஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Are the Government aware that some of the Development Works are delayed for want of cement and, if so, will they be pleased to give instructions to the officers concerned to give preference to Development Works in the sale or distribution of cement?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : The Government themselves are not getting the quota they want. We made an application for 45,000 tons. As against it, the Central Government allotted 30,500 tons. That is why there is difficulty.

SRI K. R. NALLASIVAM : கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சிமெண்டானது கண்டிரோலில் கொடுக்கப்படுவதாகச் சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால் வியாபாரிகளுக்கு தாசில்தாரின் கோட்டா பிரகாரம் 30 சதவீதம் மூட்டைகள் தான் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. மீதியுள்ள மூட்டைகளை தங்கள் சொந்த இஷ்டப்படி விற்றுக்கொள்ளலாம் என இருந்தால் சிமெண்டு கண்ட்ரோல் செய்யப் பட்டிருக்கிறது என்பது சரியா?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : We have not got anything to do with the control of cement in the State. It is the Central Government that are controlling it. We have been getting quotas of cement which is distributed or supplied by the various cement companies in this State.

SRI B. K. NALLASWAMI : May I bring to the notice of the Government that lavish allotments are made for Local Development Works by the officers concerned and that contractors who get more than their requirements, blackmarket the excess quantity and may I request the Government to arrange for proper supervision over the allotments for Local Development Works in order to avoid such blackmarketing?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : The premise that lavish allotments are made is itself questionable because, according to me, lavish allotments could not be made as we are not getting the full quantity which we have indented for. If the contractors are able to scrape something to blackmarket, that will certainly be looked into and due action taken.

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM : From the answer given by the Hon. Minister, we understand that the Government themselves are not getting the quota that they require. That means that the public also will not get the quota that they require. In view of this position, will the Government consider the desirability of fixing a certain percentage for Government and a certain percentage for the public out of the available quota?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : The total quantity of cement produced in this State is 55,400 tons, out of which the Government of India have fixed for the Madras Government 30,500 tons. But our requirement is

28th September 1956]

45,000 tons. That is the position to-day. Twenty-five thousand odd tons go for public consumption, and the Government of India themselves allot to other States also.

Sri V. C. PALANISAMI GOUNDER : I should like to know whether the Government have issued strict orders to the district officers to supply cement to agriculturists for agricultural works in view of the need for increased food production?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : That does not arise out of this question. Some of the essential Government works suffer for want of cement. When that is the position, before we can set our home in order, it is too much to expect that we would go in for charity.

Dr. K. B. MENON : Will the Hon. Minister tell us very briefly the difference between the control that was there before and the control that is there now?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : There was no control over the sale of cement before, and we could buy cement from the stockists or producers. Now the State Trading Corporation of India has been brought into being. The cement companies have to place all the cement that they produce in the hands of the Government. This Corporation takes over the entire stock and allots quotas to Government and various institutions.

Sri K. R. SAMBANDAM : இப்பொழுது கண்ட்ரோல் மூலமாகக் கொடுக்கப்படும் சிமெண்டில் பொதுவாக மராமத்து இலாகா, என்.இ.எஸ். முதலியவற்றுக்கே லைசென்ஸ் வழங்க கலெக்டர்களுக்கு அனுமதி அளிக்கப் பட்டிருக்கிறது. சில இடங்களில் இவற்றுக்குக் கொடுத்தது போக இன்னும் அதிகமான சிமெண்டு மூட்டைகள் மிஞ்சுகின்றன. அவற்றை வேறு யாருக்கும் வினியோகிக்க கலெக்டருக்கு அனுமதி தரப்படவில்லை. ஆகவே கொஞ்ச காலத்திற்குப் பிறகு அவற்றை பிளாக் மார்க்கெட்டில் விற்பதற்கு வாய்ப்பு கிடைக்கிறது. ஆகவே அவற்றுக்குக் கொடுத்தது போக பாக்கி யிருக்கும் மூட்டைகளை விவசாயிகளுக்கும், பள்ளிக்கூடங்களுக்கும் கொடுக்க கலெக்டருக்கு உத்திரவு போடுவார்களா ?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : If, after meeting the due requirements of the Government, the excess that is left over is blackmarketed as alleged by the hon. Member, that can be looked into.

Sri V. C. PALANISAMI GOUNDER : When I put my supplementary question, some hon. Members laughed at me. I regret that they have not understood the relationship of cement to agriculture. Cement is absolutely necessary for the construction of channels, overhead tanks and other irrigation works. I am only sorry for their ignorance.

Sri S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : I rise on a point of order Sir. The hon. Member did not ask any question but expressed his view about the ignorance of some Members. Is it in order?

[28th September 1956

MR. SPEAKER : It is perfectly in order to say that a Member is ignorant of a particular set of facts.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will it be in order to laugh at an hon. Member when he puts a question?

MR. SPEAKER : There is a difference between laughing and laughing at a person. If one laughs, he laughs in jest; if one laughs at a person, he laughs in scorn. What took place was merely laughing and not laughing at the hon. Member. I do not think anybody laughed at him.

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM : In answer to the question put by Sri K. R. Sambandam, the Hon. Minister said that the quantity left over after meeting the requirements of the Government would be given to the public. That may take some time, and in the meantime there may be demand for cement for agricultural works and other important works from private individuals. May I request him to issue instructions to the concerned officers to allot a certain percentage for the public and a certain percentage for the Government out of the available quota?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : That means Government requirements should be assessed in advance and the excess, if any, should be distributed. That will be done.

SRI A. RATNAM : பொதுஜனங்களுக்கு பர்மிட் இல்லாமல் கொடுப்பதற்கு வியாபாரிகள் அனுமதிக்கப்படுகிறார்களா ? அப்படி இருந்தால் எவ்வளவு சதம் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது? கண்டிரோலர் பர்மிட் கொடுக்கிறவர்களுக்கே சிமிண்டு இல்லை என வியாபாரிகள் மறுக்கிறார்களா ? சென்னையில் இருக்கக்கூடிய எம். குப்புசாமி நாயகர் என்ற வியாபாரி சிமிண்டு மூட்டைகளை கள்ளமார்க்கெட்டில் விற்பதாக சர்க்காருக்குப் புகார் வந்திருக்கிறதா ? வந்திருந்தால் சர்க்கார் அதன்பேரில் என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள் ?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : This has no bearing on the primary question. A separate question may be put.

SRI M. PALANIYANDI : I have been standing all along.

MR. SPEAKER : I think at least two supplementary questions have been put by the hon. Member on this question and I must give opportunity to the other Members also. It was not quite proper that the hon. Member should shout 'Sir, Sir'. If he wants to put a question, the proper thing for him to do is to stand up in his place, and not say 'Sir'. Question No. 272-E.

SRI M. PALANIYANDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one word—

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. I have called the next question.